IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1.

Kindly cancel claims 16-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~Method~~ method of extracting a volatile natural substance from a biological material, wherein the biological material contains water, comprising the following steps:

a) introducing the biological material into a microwave chamber with the exclusion of solvent;

b) maintaining a normal pressure in the microwave chamber and irradiating the biological material with microwaves until at least some of the natural substance is released from the biological material;

c) conveying the released natural substance from the microwave chamber into a condensation chamber by convection;

d) cooling the released natural substance until it condenses; and

e) conveying the released natural substance from the condensation chamber.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microwave chamber and the condensation chamber are parts of a closed system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the natural substance is a plant oil.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step b) the microwave irradiation is controlled in such a way that a temperature below 100°C prevails in the microwave chamber.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step b) the biological material is stirred for improved exposure.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microwave chamber has an obliquely arranged, rotatable receiving container for improved exposure of the biological material.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber is separated from the microwave chamber by a partition which has an upwardly tapering form and has an air-permeable aperture in the upper region.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the partition is made from plastics material or glass.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein heat is fed into a transition region between the microwave chamber and the condensation chamber to assist convection.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber is cooled in the wall region.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber is cooled by water cooling.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber has the form of a vertically oriented cylinder.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensed natural substance is discharged from the condensation chamber in step e) using gravitational force.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step e) water discharged with the natural substance is fed to the microwave chamber.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the discharged water is at least partially separated from the natural substance by an overflow device and is fed to the microwave chamber.

16-31. (Cancelled)